

Testimony on S.B. 4: The CT Clean Air Act

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Submitted by
Robert M. Goodrich

Transportation Committee Chairs Lemar and Haskell, Environment Committee Chairs Gresko and Cohen, and distinguished members of both committee my name is Robert Goodrich, I am father, an educator, and an organizational leader of an education advocacy organization that fights for racial justice in our schools.

Waterbury, where we live and work has enormous amounts of air pollution. Vehicle emissions from Interstate 84 and Route 8 as well as the large number of commercial vehicles traveling in our neighborhoods creates air quality conditions that are unbearable for some and deadly for others. In certain neighborhoods like the South End or even the North End communities of color are overburdened by air pollution. In our schools there are over 4,300 students who are treated for asthma related issues on a daily or weekly basis. Therefore reducing carbon emissions is central to our organizing efforts, especially for our students and families that are forced to walk to schools in the most polluted corridors in our city. We support S.B. 4.

We are recommending two amendments. First, the cap of \$2,000.00 on vouchers is too low for our communities to experience the lowest levels of air pollution. We recommend increasing it to the level at which car-replacing cargo bikes can become more prevalent as soon as possible. Secondly, we recommend increasing e-bike rebates/vouchers specifically for members of Environmental Justice Communities to at least \$1,000.00 as way to close the racial equity gaps that exist in communities of color.

Sincerely,

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